

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON D.C. 20231, ON THE DATE BELOW.

February 20, 2003
DATE

RODNEY F. BROWN



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mark A. Plummer et al.

Serial No: 09/774,826

Filed: January 30, 2001

For: Removal of Sulfur from a Hydrocarbon
Through a Selective Membrane

Attorney Docket No: 970019 USA

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) Group Art Unit: 1764
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) Examiner: Walter D. Griffin
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION WITHOUT AMENDMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

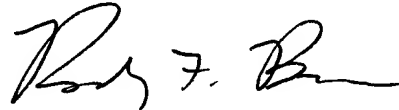
Sir:

An Office Action was mailed in the above-captioned patent application on August 29, 2002. Claims 1-42 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action and all stand rejected. In particular, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 7-17, 19-24, and 26-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0111524 A1 to Minhas et al. The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 18, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentably obvious over Minhas et al.

It is respectfully submitted that the concurrently filed declaration to establish completion of the instant claimed invention at a date prior to Minhas et al., removes Minhas et al. as prior art. Accordingly, allowance of pending claims 1-42 is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (858) 272-8705 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rodney F. Brown".

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RFB:002P0002B